

22127/2
A N

A P O L O G Y,

FOR DIFFERING IN OPINION FROM
THE AUTHORS OF THE
MONTHLY and CRITICAL REVIEWS;

O N

1. LITERARY COMMUNICATIONS.
2. VARIOLOUS AND VACCINE INOCULATION.
3. DR. JENNER'S DISCOVERY OF
VACCINE INOCULATION.
4. THE MEANS OF PREVENTING
FEBRILE CONTAGION.
5. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

SECOND EDITION.

BY

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM, M. & LL. D.

MEMBER OF SEVERAL ACADEMIES AND
LITERARY SOCIETIES.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED BY J. BRYAN, GROCERS' HALL COURT;
FOR J. MAWMAN, SUCCESSOR TO MR. DILLY.

1804.

83251

“ So may the sturdiest Oak in the forest be cleft in twain
“ by a wedge made of its own wood.”

Hist. of JOHN BULL.



DR. LETTSOM'S
A P O L O G Y,

FOR DIFFERING FROM
THE MONTHLY AND CRITICAL REVIEWERS.

[Price 2s.]

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3037585x>

INTRODUCTION.

THE Monthly and Critical Reviewers having published opinions which appeared to me, if carried into practice, calculated to injure the community; I thought it my duty, as a Physician, to address them in private letters*, upon their inju-

* For the Critical Reviewers.

Gentlemen,

I enclose for your acceptance my "Hints," in the first volume of which (p. 279) I have noticed your recommendation of the use of spirits, which, if adopted, would, in my opinion, be productive of much injury. You have indeed, in some measure, limited its exhibition, under the criterion of the nurse or agent perceiving a *bad taste*, and to ascertain where the *taste* is to be perceived, you subjoin "in the "mouth," left of course the nurse should perceive *this sense* in some other part.

B

I have

injudicious advice: perhaps my remonstrances might convey a degree of censure not agreeable to persons habitually accustomed to censure others; and by an invasion of whose privileges I may have incurred their displeasure. This seems probable, from their criticisms being chiefly personal; and nearly as little applicable to the contents of my volumes, as to the Histories of Jack the Giant-Killer, or of Robin Hood. One passage indeed might be excepted, in which an unqualified attack is made upon charitable institutions in general, to which I have paid some attention in the third section of the second part of this Apology; for I have divided it into two parts, as

more

I have uniformly, for thirty years, discountenanced the use of spirituous liquors, even in the smallest quantities, from having observed their fascinating influence, in promoting frequent repetitions, and increased potations, till the objects of delusion become irretrievably ruined in health.

Most dram-drinkers, and especially those among the female sex, have begun the use of the poison in quantity not exceeding a tea-spoonful; and usually under the persuasion of some friend, that it corrected wind and acidity of the stomach; till by degrees the unfortunate object imagines that these are continually predominant, and the supposed antidote is consequently more frequently applied, as well as its quantity increased; but you, at the commencement, boldly advise, a *table-spoonful*, besides gargling the mouth, to improve the relish, as sugar is applied to the lips of infants to induce or teach them to suck.

Not

more explanatory of the reflections on my respective publications, intituled, "Observations on "the Cow-pock," and "Hints designed to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science."

I am ready to acknowledge, that there is not any employment in which literary men devote their leisure with more advantage to science, and improvement to society, than in the critical investigation of the productions of the press. Instances, however, may occur, when sentiments

Not a nurse who reads your recommendation will remain long without perceiving a bad *taste*, and, agreeably to your explanation of the seat of *taste*, "in the mouth," will as often adopt your advice, and not only swallow the *table-spoonful*, but that portion besides which you recommend "to gargle the mouth and throat."

In my judgement, nurses do not require any new inducements to adopt a practice so destructive to the community in general, and so immediately improper in those who are appointed to *watch* over the health of others.

Impressed, therefore, as I am, with a knowledge of the deleterious influence of little drops of liquid poison, I request that you would take notice of the suggestions I have presumed to offer; for, alas! I have already heard your high authority quoted in favour of the fatal cordial; and, in opposition to you, what avails the feeble voice of

Basinghall-street,

J. C. LETTSOM!

April 14, 1802.

The purport of my letter to the Monthly Reviewers is explained in the subsequent Section.

may have been delivered with prejudice rather than with candour; and opinions may have been given, without justice or decorum. Authors doubtless feel more or less partiality in favour of their own performances, and may seek for praise where censure is demanded; judicious reflection, however, must enable them to estimate the propriety of the criticism, and induce them to acquiesce in its candid decision, although unfavourably severe; but, when critics substitute invective for argument, and the violation of truth under the plea of candour; and, to personal insult, add detraction of character; it would be culpable not to court discussion, and weak not to repel calumny. Under these sentiments the following observations are submitted.

PART

P A R T I.

S E C T I O N I.

ON LITERARY COMMUNICATIONS.

ADDRESSED TO

THE MONTHLY AND CRITICAL REVIEWERS.

FROM the profession you publicly announce and exercise, of reviewing and commenting upon literary productions, every writer is necessarily liable to your inquisitorial function. As an author I have felt no disposition to complain, until the present occasion; as I have more frequently met your approbation than censure, to an extent indeed, in my own estimation, exceeding my

merits; and, were my opinion of any avail with the publick, I would chearfully acknowledge, that the perusal of your pages has afforded me more general information than any other volumes within the compass of my reading.

After this concession, I trust, that you will not imagine, that this address results from any previous bias against you; and, in the present instance, whatever may be my feeling, I hope to approach you in language equally dispassionate and candid.

I am sensible of the advantageous ground on which you stand. Your reputation as learned bodies has long been acknowledged; and your opinions, in great measure, determine those of the publick, on every literary and controversial subject. As an individual, therefore, of little importance, I shall be charged with rashness and temerity, for attempting to struggle against so mighty an host; but, however unequal to the contest, a consciousness of having acted upon the basis of Truth, under the motives of promoting Publick Good and Private Happiness, gives me a confidence that the fall will be broken, and an honourable retreat gained, without being crushed to atoms by a combination of literary despots.

In the first paragraph of your attack, for you immediately unmask your battery, not with a brilliant fire, but with a contumelious sneer, you observe, on my "Observations on the Cow-pock,"

"Dr.

“ Dr. Lettsom admits, that he has been anticipated by several distinguished authors; but, modestly hints, that some of his *particular friends* will form no opinion till they have ascertained his sentiments. We trust, the *periphery* of his *associates* will now be satisfied.”

Critical Review, vol. xxxvi. p. 100.

If my foreign correspondents were pleased to request my opinion upon the important discovery of vaccine inoculation, it resulted from a very natural inference. They had perused the literary performances on the subject, which issued from the English press, in which there appeared a considerable difference of opinion; you particularly, who are together a most powerful phalanx, as well as some writers of less notoriety, discouraged the practice. Under these circumstances of doubt, some physicians who had long known me, were weak enough to pay a greater deference to my opinion than to yours. This criminal conduct of theirs was no fault of mine. I did not solicit application; nor did I expect it from any European correspondents, as they might easily have applied to physicians better informed on the subject; however a long-rooted partiality might have influenced my American brethren.

Besides the weight of your opposition, the first publications of Doctors Jenner and Woodville exhibited histories of the Cow-pock, so widely different,

as to occasion hesitation and doubt even in this country; and it was natural and prudent, in every practitioner, to attempt acquiring some consistent and decisive information. In proof of this statement, I draw, from my private scrutoire, extracts from two letters; the first of which is from the earliest European letter I received upon the subject; the second is from the latest American: you may censure me for egotism; but I can no more prevent their applause than your censure. I am contending for something dearer than life, of which you have deliberately attempted to rob me. The original letters, however, as well as others on the subject of vaccine inoculation, are ready for your inspection, if, with other insults, you superadd doubts of my veracity.

“ AT present I must consult you upon two
“ very interesting articles. I know, indeed, that
“ your other important occupations do not afford
“ you a great deal of leisure; but I know also,
“ that, on account of your professional abilities
“ and very extensive practice, you are the fittest
“ person to apply to; I therefore intreat you, by
“ all the ties of our friendship, and for the sake
“ of the suffering part of mankind, to give me,
“ as soon as possible, a decisive answer. The
“ vaccine inoculation has of late very much pre-
“ vailed

“ vailed in this country; a very great number
“ have been inoculated, not only among the in-
“ habitants of the different cities, but also among
“ the farmers, who otherwise have always been
“ very averse to the inoculation of the small-pox;
“ but though I have myself inoculated several
“ persons of all ages and constitutions with cow-
“ pock-matter, and the inoculation never has
“ been attended with any unpleasant symptoms,
“ and the progress of the disease has constantly
“ been very regular; yet I must, upon this oc-
“ casion, communicate to you two principal ob-
“ jections which now and then arise in my mind
“ against this new method, and ask your final
“ opinion upon them: In the first place, the mat-
“ ter with which we inoculate the vaccine is by
“ no means taken from the nipple of a cow, but
“ from a human subject, and has in all proba-
“ bility by this time already passed through seve-
“ ral hundred human constitutions. Now it is,
“ in my opinion, not at all indubitably proved,
“ that the matter, by this way of propagation,
“ does not undergo some very material change,
“ and even lose its properties of preserving from
“ the small-pox; the difference between the re-
“ sults of the experiments made by the Doctors
“ Jenner and Woodville seems rather to favour
“ the doubt; but, even taking this preserving pro-
“ perty of the vaccine matter for granted, and
“ sup-

“ supposing its essential characters unaltered through all these different propagations; have then your observations already clearly proved to your mind, that the cow-pock does not merely for a time, but really extinguish for ever, the disposition to the small-pox? Are there no facts published which seem to prove the contrary?”

“ *Philadelphia, June 5, 1802.*

“ DEAR DOCTOR,

“ The vaccine disease is now fast progressing through the United States. You must feel infinite happiness in reflecting that you are the source from which this inestimable blessing has been diffused among us. You daily receive the thanks and blessings of thousands for your exertions to serve us: had not you extended your benevolent views across the Atlantic, we might have been without this treasure to this day.”



I trust I have now answered your objections to the offensive paragraph, which has excited both your ridicule and censure; though, for my own part, I do not see any thing ridiculous or censurable in it, nor how I could express myself more clearly, were I to attempt again to convey the same

same sentiment; and, that the reader may have the references before him, here, as well as elsewhere in this address, I shall quote my original paragraph, that the same cause for witticism may occur to him, as has so powerfully influenced the Reviewers.

“ Individuals, in the intercourse of society, “ however limited the circle may be, gradually “ form mutual attachments, which beget mutual “ confidence; and hence the opinions of one “ person determine those of another; a sentiment “ that encourages me to write upon a subject, “ although anticipated by several distinguished “ authors; under the persuasion that my testimo- “ ny may have some influence within the peri- “ phery of my associates and particular friends; “ some of whom, resident in different parts of the “ world, have requested my opinion respecting “ the inoculation of the cow-pock, with some “ account of the institutions established in this “ country for promoting the general practice of “ it; and I hope their laudable wishes will be “ gratified by the perusal of the subsequent ob- “ servations.”

If the Reader will take the further trouble of comparing this paragraph with what the Reviewers have been pleased to introduce into their Review as a quotation from it; their want of candour, to speak of it in the mildest manner, will appear unworthy

worthy of any gentleman or scholar; they assert, that “Dr. Lettsom modestly hints that some of his particular friends *will form no opinion till they have ascertained his sentiments.*” My words merely are, that “some of my particular friends have requested my opinion respecting the inoculation of the cow-pock.” Had the Reviewers discovered such disingenuity in my language, they would have boldly charged me with FALSEHOOD. Were I disposed to exhibit similar detections, they have afforded me numerous opportunities; but I do not like to see men of science, and better information, degraded; nor, like a reptile, pass over the sound parts of a man, to dwell upon his sores.

SECTION II.

ON VARIOLOUS AND VACCINE
INOCULATION.

IN June 1798, Dr. Jenner published his “Inquiry into the Cow-pox,” which was followed by several interesting performances, in proof of the security and importance of the practice of vaccine inoculation. So long afterwards as July 1800, the Reviewers not only continued their opposition to it, but recommended the inoculation of the small-pox, in the most unqualified manner, in consequence of Dr. Trotter’s proposition to introduce the cow-pock into the fleet, which I shall give in their own words.

Dr.

Dr. Trotter, in his "Medicina Nautica," had recommended the inoculation of the cow-pock in the fleet, on which the authors of the Monthly Review make the following critique:

" After having treated of the small-pox, which may become a dangerous epidemic on board our fleet, according to the author's representation, he proposes (from the Reports published by Dr. Pearson), the inoculation of our seamen for the cow-pox. *This is one of Dr. Trotter's notions, which has been hastily adopted; and which is not recommended by his own experience.* A plan of general inoculation for the small-pox would be preferable *at this time;* for our brave seamen ought not to be among *the first subjects of experiment.*"

Vol. XXXII. p. 249, for July, 1800.

Happily for mankind, none of their *board*, as they sometimes stile themselves, presided at the Board of Health; for here Dr. Blane, Thomas Keate, Esq. Dr. Pearson, and others, united with Dr. Trotter, in promoting the vaccine inoculation, and preventing the execution of the plan proposed by the Reviewers, which was calculated to propagate the disease throughout most regions of the globe, and which must have destroyed at least one eighth of the human species in Europe who had not previously passed through the small-pox,

pox, and one third of the inhabitants of the other quarters of the globe! Whilst we rejoice in the escape of mankind on this occasion, on reflection we shudder, more particularly when such an experiment is recommended by such impressive authority! What a contrast of rational and humane character is exhibited by the excellent Jefferson and the judicious head of the Miamis Indians; an account of which I introduce here from the European Magazine, for September 1802; as the facts mentioned may afford amusement, if not instruction.

Extract of a letter from Professor Waterhouse, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, dated March 22, 1802.

“ This winter there was a grand embassy of the Indians to the President and Congress. LITTLE TURTLE was the head warrior. The President and Government had supplied them with ploughs, and every instrument in common use in agriculture; as well as with spinning wheels, looms, &c. &c. and, to crown all, the President explained to LITTLE TURTLE how the *Great Spirit* had made a donation to the enlightened white men; first to ONE * in England, and from him to *one* † in

* Dr. Jenner, the first inoculator of the cow-pock in Europe.

† Dr. Waterhouse, the first inoculator of the cow-pock in America.

Boston,

Boston, of the means to prevent them from having the small-pox (which had occasioned great fatality among that race); and such confidence had the copper-coloured chief in the words of *his father*, the President, that he submitted to be inoculated, together with the rest of the warriors, by the hands of the Rev. Dr. Garnett, chaplain to Congress. On their departure the President caused them to be supplied with the vaccine matter; and gave their interpreter an abstract of the letter of instructions which I had written to the President.

“ Not long since fifteen more chiefs came down to Washington, to receive the same blessing from the clergyman who had inoculated LITTLE TURTLE and the other warriors.”

“ To the Editor of the European Magazine.

“ A month or two ago you were pleased to insert in your Magazine a Vaccine Anecdote respecting the Indian warrior, denominated LITTLE TURTLE, which I received from Professor Waterhouse, of Boston; you seem, therefore, entitled to any further particulars connected with this distinguished chief of the Miamis.

“ This consideration encourages me to communicate an extract from a letter, dated “ City of Washington, July 12th, 1802,” which I have received from my ingenious friend Dr. Thornton, resident

resident in that new metropolis. It is more valuable, as the information is sent to me by the doctor without any knowledge of the previous communication I had been furnished with from Boston.

After mentioning my "Observations on the Cow-Pock," he observes, "The President of the United States has been very instrumental in propagating this useful knowledge in various parts of this country, and gave some of the matter to LITTLE TURTLE, the celebrated Indian Chief, who commanded at the defeat of our general St. Clair. By a letter from the Interpreter, the Indians among the Miamis had inoculated *three hundred*; and as they were arriving from all quarters to be inoculated when he wrote, 'he thought that as many more would receive the matter before the letter could arrive here.' I am in hopes that this disease will no longer be among the enemies of these poor people. The LITTLE TURTLE is not only one of their greatest warriors, but one of the most polished and refined, as well as acute, of the Indians: indeed he is considered as a great orator. I took a very extensive vocabulary from him of the Miamis language for the President; who had had one taken by Monsieur Volney before; but I did not find that Monsieur Volney's would be generally understood when I spoke it. This might proceed from his making use of the

Roman alphabet only, which is incapable of expressing all the sounds. Monsieur Volney, however, wrote a very ingenious piece, entitled, “*Simplification des Langues Orientales*,” which was intended to exemplify particularly the sounds of the Arabic. I found that the Arabians have the two sounds of the English *th*, as in *thine* and in *thin*, vocal and aspirate; and I can trace thence the Ð of the Saxons, and § of the Greeks.

“ I cannot place the desolating ravages of this dreadful disease in a more forcible light than is afforded in Mackenzie’s Travels and Voyages, just published; the relation, indeed, exhibits a more dreadful scene of carnage than what happened many years ago in Greenland; I request your insertion of it in this place.

“ In the ‘ Voyages from Montreal, on the River St. Laurence, through the Continent of North America, to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans, in the years 1789 and 1793,’ the Writer, in describing some settlements by adventurers from Canada, has introduced the following account of the dreadful havock by the small-pox among the Indians.

“ Two of the establishments on the Assiniboin River were attacked, when several white men, and a greater number of Indians, were killed. In short, it appeared that the natives had formed a resolution to extirpate the traders; and, without entering into any further reasonings on the subject,

ject, it appears to be incontrovertible, that the irregularity pursued in carrying on the trade has brought it into its present forlorn situation; and nothing but the greatest calamity that could have befallen the natives, saved the traders from destruction: this was the small-pox, which spread its destructive and desolating power as the fire consumes the dry grass of the field. The fatal infection spread around with a painful rapidity which no flight could escape, and with a fatal effect that nothing could resist. It destroyed with its pestilential breath whole families and tribes; and the horrid scene presented to those who had the melancholy and afflicting opportunity of beholding it, a combination of the dead, the dying, and such as, to avoid the fate of their friends around them, prepared to disappoint the plague of its prey, by terminating their own existence.

“ The habits and lives of these devoted people, which provided not to day for the wants of to-morrow, must have heightened the pains of such an affliction, by leaving them, not only without remedy, but even without alleviation. Nought was left them but to submit in agony and despair.

“ To aggravate the picture, if aggravation were possible, may be added, the putrid carcasses which the wolves, with a furious voracity, dragged

forth from the huts, or which were mangled within them by the dogs, whose hunger was satisfied with the disfigured remains of their masters. Nor was it uncommon for the father of a family whom the infection had not reached, to call them around him, to represent the cruel sufferings and horrid fate of their relations, from the influence of some evil spirit who was preparing to extirpate their race; and to incite them to baffle death, with all its horrors, by their own poinards. At the same time, if their hearts failed them in this necessary act, he was himself ready to perform the deed of mercy with his own hand, as the last act of his affection, and instantly to follow them to the common place of rest and refuge from human evil." P. xiv.

The *accurate Ring* early exposed the dangerous plan of general inoculation in the fleet; I followed his example in an epistolary expostulation with the *Monthly Reviewers*, and charged them with publicly patronizing a system calculated *to extirpate a greater number of the human species in nine months than had been destroyed by the recent nine years war*; and in my "*Observations on the Cow-pock*," I noticed their opposition to the vaccine discovery; which I presume has excited their displeasure. With my letter of remonstrance was inclosed the following table, which I likewise delivered to the Committee of the House of Commons, upon their inquiry

inquiry into the merits of the petition on Dr. Jenner's discovery.

From the Yearly Bills of Mortality in London.

Years.	Total No. of Burials.	Dead of Small Pox In all	1000.	Years.	Total No. of Burials.	Dead of Small Pox. In all	1000.
1667	15842	1196	75	1713	21057	1614	77
1668	17278	1987	115	1714	26569	2810	106
1669	19432	951	49	1715	22232	1057	48
1670	20198	1465	73	1716	24436	2427	99
1671	15729	696	44	1717	23446	2211	94
1672	18230	1116	61	1718	26523	1884	71
1673	17504	853	49	1719	28347	3229	114
1674	21201	2507	118	1720	25454	1440	57
1675	17244	997	58	1721	26142	2375	91
1676	18732	359	19	1722	25750	2167	84
1677	19067	1678	88	1723	25262	2640	104
1678	20678	1798	87	1724	23358	1197	51
1679	21730	1967	91	1725	29233	1370	46
1680	21053	689	33	1726	26062	2688	103
1681	23971	2982	125	1727	23538	1594	67
1682	20691	1408	68	1728	27581	3014	100
1683	20587	2096	102	1729	27823	2084	74
1684	23202	156	7	1730	25825	1590	61
1685	23222	2496	107	1731	25432	1690	66
1686	22609	1062	47	1732	30811	2725	88
1701	20471	1095	53	1733	32169	1977	61
1702	19481	311	16	1734	27483	1429	52
1703	20720	898	43	1735	25200	2029	80
1704	22684	1501	66	1736	20606	1633	79
1705	22097	1095	50	1737	21296	1206	56
1706	19847	721	36	1738	28157	3230	114
1707	21600	1078	50	1739	25494	1380	54
1708	21291	1687	79	1740	23869	1789	75
1709	21800	1024	47	1741	25516	2625	102
1710	24620	3138	127	1742	23727	1229	51
1711	19833	915	46	1743	21028	998	47
1712	21198	1943	92	1744	20485	3538	172

Years.	Total No. of Burials	Dead of Small Pox. In all	1000	Years.	Total No. of Burials	Dead of Small Pox. In all	1000.
1753	19276	774	40	1763	26143	3582	137
1754	22696	2359	103	1764	23202	2382	102
1755	21917	1988	90	1765	23230	2498	107
1756	20872	1608	77	1766	23911	2334	97
1757	21313	3296	154	1767	22612	2188	96
1758	17576	1273	72	1768	23639	3028	128
1759	19604	2596	132	1769	21847	1968	90
1760	19830	2187	110	1770	22434	1986	88
1761	21063	1525	72	1771	21780	1660	76
1762	26336	2743	104	1772	26053	3992	153
General Average.		1005279	89528				89

That this table produced considerable influence upon the Committee is obvious, from the Abridger of the Report, Henry Bankes, Esq. having introduced it into the first part of the Report in the following words: "As a comparison between this new practice, and the inoculated small-pox, forms a principal consideration in the present inquiry, some facts, with regard to the latter, engaged the attention of your Committee; and they have inserted in the Appendix (N° 44.) Statements of the mortality occasioned by the small-pox in forty-two years before inoculation was practised in England, and of the forty-two years from 1731 to 1772: the result of which appears to be, an increase of deaths amounting to 17 in every 1000: the general average giving 72 in every 1000, during the first forty-two years; and 89 in the forty-

forty-two years ending with 1772; so as to make the whole excess of deaths in the latter period 1,742."

That the language of the Reviewers has recently undergone a revolution is evident from their comments; having exerted themselves for upwards of two years against vaccine inoculation, and been foiled; they have endeavoured to hide the ignominy of defeat by excuses and subterfuges, which cannot be supported by the collateral evidence of their own writings; for they observe,

" Seldom, indeed, has a medical question of importance been so speedily determined; to this decision *the modesty and candour* of Dr. Jenner *has eminently contributed.*"

Monthly Review, Vol. XXXVIII. p. 316.

" We raised various objections to the attempt when first published, and have accumulated doubts and difficulties to *promote* a more accurate investigation. In short, by this conduct, we have proved ourselves *the best friends of the cause*, and have given it a solid foundation, which the sanguine expectations of its more eager favourers would not allow them to establish firmly."

Critical Review, Vol. XXXVI. p. 103.

If opposition for upwards of two years to vaccine inoculation, and even recommending another practice to be substituted, afford the best evidence and means of promoting it, I confess my ignorance. Confession of error is ingenuous, but certainly the conviction of the Reviewers was not expedited by *the modesty and candour of Dr. Jenner*; for two years after they first contemplated this *modesty and candour*, they continued their opposition to vaccine inoculation; and modesty and candour were qualities that did not hence influence them. To rouse attention, I adopted a more impressive tone, in a style foreign to my usual composition, with which the Reviewers are not unacquainted. They term it bombast; but whatever epithet they may please to apply, I forced it upon myself, to excite them to reflection; and I succeeded much to my gratification. That the table of deaths by the small-pox might convince them of the danger of inoculating it, I cannot doubt; or that the important facts which it exhibits are invincible. Had they been acquainted with this table previously to their recommendation of small-pox inoculation, they must have been more criminal than I have hitherto presumed; because they would then have been apprized of the probable fatality of the advice they published, in condemning Dr. Trotter's proposition—advice calculated to desolate the world;

an

an opinion I would by no means entertain of them. As I made the first attack on the authors of the Critical Review, it might be supposed that they would inflict the most severe chastizement in the asperity of recrimination, and I was prepared to receive the sharpest prick of their pen; but, their unprovoked attack on Dr. Jenner can only be attributed to the envy which superior merit too often excites. Those who know the private character of Dr. Jenner, and can appreciate the importance of a discovery which entitles him to the gratitude of an admiring world, will read with strong disapprobation the contumelious reflections of those Critics in their XXXVIth volume, pp. 197. 199.

“ Every one must know that the few cases recorded by Dr. Jenner might have been observed while running. The original fact was known [by whom ?], and the application only was required, which every medical man must see would consume but a very moderate portion of time — no talents, but eye-sight — no mental exertion, but common attention. Dr. Jenner, indeed, resigned his practice on this publication, and came to London. He might as well have done so on the publication of his paper on the natural history of the Cuckoo, and expected a national remuneration. We can truly say, that had the subject been left as it was by Dr. Jenner, the doctrine would have

“ found

“ found few advocates, and the practice fewer
“ followers. The labours of Dr. Pearson and
“ Dr. Woodville are so varied, important, and
“ beneficial—they have placed a subject incum-
“ bered with difficulties and contradictions in a
“ point of view so clear, forcible, and scientific,
“ that they cannot, without a little indignation,
“ see praises and rewards strikingly exclusive.”

By this disengenuous mode of induction, Columbus, who discovered America, has less claim to merit, than the captains of merchantmen who follow or improve the tract that led to a discovery, which unveiled a new hemisphere to his wondering but ungrateful countrymen.

SECTION III.

ON DR. JENNER'S DISCOVERY OF
VACCINE INOCULATION.

WITH minds not capable of cherishing a capacious object, or jealous of greatness in others, the first impression is to assume magisterial dignity, by obstinate opposition; but when Truth overcomes supercilious dogmatism, the easiest subterfuge is to detract from the importance of the prize, or of the individual who obtained it. Perhaps the reader may think these reflections applicable to the conduct of Reviewers, who not only obstinately opposed vaccine inoculation, but recommended the practice of inoculation with the small-pox. Driven at length from this untenable post, by the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons, on Dr. Jenner's petition, in March 1802, and the manuscript that was presented to them about that time, they now attempt to detract from the character of this distinguished physician,

physician, by denying him the merit of the discovery of vaccine inoculation, and consequently unworthy of parliamentary reward, although they afterwards reluctantly admit it; but why reward him for a thing of *no great ingenuity*, and *without claim to invention*? This strange inconsistency they thus explain: "With respect to the exaggerated panegyric on Dr. Jenner, we must again repeat, that it was no discovery; it was at least no discovery which he could claim; a fact well known among milkmen (not among Reviewers). He tried under his own eye, and published, the experience of others (what others?) as well as of himself. In reality he only extended what was before confined; for if it were known by milking infected cows, it was no great stretch of thought to communicate it under the skin (why had it then never been done?); if in one case it prevented the small-pox, no great ingenuity was requisite to perceive that it most probably would do so in the other. We mean not to depress the merit of Dr. Jenner (what then do you mean?) nor the advantages of the cow-pock. He merits much praise*, and the reward he has obtained for the

* The same Reviewers afterwards intimate (p. 197), that he was as much entitled to parliamentary reward for writing the natural history of the cuckoo as for this great discovery of vaccine inoculation! See Sect. II. p. 29.

" pro-

“ promulgation of the fact—and, if his friends
 “ please, for the application of his knowledge,
 “ to the specific purpose of his guarding against
 “ a dangerous disease. We admit the whole im-
 “ portance of the object; but why his claim to
 “ the praise of *invention*? (to whom then is it
 “ due?)”

Critical Review, vol. XXXVI. p. 103.
 [The words enclosed in parenthesis are not in
 the original.]

To imitate the Reviewers in their hypothetical ifs, I will beg leave to add some other ifs, as proper companions and expletives: If the first man, whose foot made an impression on the sand, had made an induction, which was so natural, of taking the impressions from other substances; and if these impressions had been taken, and conveyed on paper, or linen; then the art of printing had not been a secret for upwards of five thousand years.

However boldly the charge against Dr. Jenner is denounced, I will venture to conclude that every practitioner in Europe will view with contempt, insinuations equally unwarrantable and unbecoming.

In June 1798, Dr. Jenner first published his “Inquiry into the Cow-pock.” It was then, and for two years afterwards, so little understood by the

the Reviewers themselves, that, I repeat again, they preferred inoculation of the small-pox; and so far were they then of opinion that Dr. Jenner had *no claim to invention*, that they discouraged the practice of vaccine inoculation, professedly, as appears by their own words, “*that our brave seamen might not be among the first subjects of experiment.*”

Monthly Review, vol. XXXII. p. 249. July 1800.

How a thing can be *no discovery*, and yet to practice it shall constitute *the first experiment*, requires explanation.

That Dr. Jenner justly petitioned for a reward for the discovery of vaccine inoculation, was the general opinion of the gentlemen examined before the Committee of the House of Commons; and that if Dr. Jenner had not made and published his discovery, vaccine inoculation had still remained unknown.

In a subsequent Review, vol. XXXVI. p. 196. are the following assertions.

“ It is a well-known fact in many countries, when persons had been infected by milking a cow, with these peculiar eruptions, they were incapable of receiving the small-pox. Where then is the distinction? The constitution can receive it from touching the sores, and may of course receive it from inserting the matter under the skin.

To

To call this a discovery, is a mockery, and abuse of words."

A greater *mockery* of candour, or *abuse* of philosophical induction, never disgraced a literary performance; and a more ungrateful attempt to detract from the merit due to a great discovery, never actuated an envious heart. In a previous sentence the same Reviewers declare themselves, "the best friends of the cause;" but if this be the standard of their friendship what must be the bitterness of their enmity! Dr. Jenner has uniformly admitted, that "when persons had been infected by milking a cow with these peculiar eruptions, they were incapable of receiving the small-pox." After thus solemnly announcing what every body knew, the Reviewers, presuming upon having hereby gained some proud pre-eminence, vauntingly ask, "Where then is the distinction?" If they had deigned to have perused Dr. Jenner's publications on the subject, or the Report of the Committee on his petition, they might have acquired the most decisive and satisfactory answer; but, as I have had repeated occasions to notice their want of recollection as well as their inaccuracy in quotation, I will refresh their memory with an extract from both my performances. Hints, vol. III. p. 3. Observations, p. 3. "Although the cow-pock had long since been found by incidental experience a security against the small-pox, it had never

never been applied to any beneficial purpose, till the genius of Jenner discriminated its powers, and introduced it into practice, as a permanent security against the variolous infection. This preventive quality of the vaccine fluid was certainly known even to scientific professional men many years ago ; but, strange as it may now appear, no one, till Jenner promulgated his discovery, had ever improved that knowledge, by applying it to the process of inoculation. About twenty years ago, when Dr. Archer was the physician of the hospital for inoculation, Catherine Williams, now Titchenor, from Cricklade, in Wiltshire, who had had the cow-pock in consequence of milking cows, came to her brother in London (where she is now resident), who, being desirous of ascertaining whether this circumstance could be depended upon, as preventive of the small-pox, sent her to the hospital for inoculation, when she received the variolous matter from Dr. Archer; against which, however, she was proof ; and the small-pox, of course, could not be communicated : but no advantage was derived from this fact.

“ Archer was a prudent, cautious, and rather timid practitioner ; and the hospital for inoculation owes much of its importance to his persevering attention to its interests ; but he neither possessed the spirit or penetrating inquiry of Woodville ;

nor

nor the genius or discovery of that man who has formed a new æra in medical science."

To return to your avowal, as "*the best friends to the cause*" of Dr. Jenner. When you represent his claim to the discovery of vaccine inoculation as a mockery and abuse of words; it must result, That if Dr. Jenner acquired parliamentary reward for what he knew was no discovery, then Dr. Jenner is a public impostor, and has acquired remuneration under false pretences. But if Dr. Jenner, as has been proved, be the discoverer of vaccine inoculation, then the Critical Reviewers are false accusers and public calumniators.

P A R T II.

SECTION I.

ON THE MEANS OF PREVENTING
FEBRILE CONTAGION.

“ THE Nurses and Attendants should occasionally
“ go into the open air, and expose themselves if
“ possible to a breeze ; a little *Red Wine*, or a de-
“ coction of the Peruvian Bark, may be also
“ drank in the worst situations ; and should any
“ bad taste be perceived in the mouth and throat,
“ it should be immediately gargled and washed
“ with Brandy ; *after which* about a *table spoonful*
“ should be swallowed.”

Critical Review, New Series, vol. XXXII. p. 443.

In consequence of this recommendation to Nurses and attendants on fever-patients, I sent to these Reviewers, not only an epistolary address, (Sect. I. p. 9.) but likewise inserted in my "Hints designed " to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Me- "dical Science," the following animadversion:

"Dr. Haygarth, in the investigation of the Rules of Prevention, seems as solicitous to avoid every superfluous restriction, as to include all useful regulations; and, from the numerous facts he has adduced, it is indubitably proved, that neither fumigations, nor wine, bark or brandy, are necessary; and medical visitors, or others, could not conveniently carry wine, bark, and brandy, in their pockets; and were nurses and attendants to drink brandy as often as they perceive a bad taste in the mouth and throat, they would rarely be sober. The use of spirituous liquors should not be recommended to either sex; the habit is already too predominant. Howard, who drank nothing but milk and water, would not have given this advice." Vol. I. p. 279.

From this opposition to literary despotism I rather expected, than deprecated, vengeance; and I have certainly, if this were courted, been amply gratified: but, in return for personalities, and sarcastic insults, I shall avoid all invective, and adopt a language becoming that respect which I still entertain for this learned body.

When

When the advice to drink brandy is given to *Nurses* by the Reviewers, I presume that they do not mean to confine this exhilarating liquor to this respectable tribe of old women only, because they acknowledge themselves addicted to the same potations; although, I imagine, no author, however insulted by them, ever classed them with old women. Hence, it may be candidly inferred, that, when they introduce their own bibulous disposition on visiting fever-patients, they meant to exhibit themselves as graduate doctors. In London, every apothecary can determine, from the number of prescriptions he compounds, the extent of professional visits; and it is not ascribing too great a proportion of practice to a physician in ordinary employment to admit his visiting eight fever-patients a day, which allows him to claim as many table spoonfuls of brandy, or four ounces in weight, besides the benefit of previously washing the *mouth* and *throat* with the same antiseptic fluid, by way of preparing the organs of taste for the true relish and enjoyment of the genuine *Coniac*. But to a medical Reviewer, whose professional range and experience must exceed those of an ordinary physician, it would be a reflection upon his dignity to assign less than double the number of fever-patients, which would of course entitle him to sixteen table-spoonfuls of brandy,

besides the quantity necessary to wash *the fauces* and *throat*; and after all these exertions, to act as a medical Reviewer, must indubitably prove him to be strong-headed indeed.

After gratuitously recommending this dose, the Reviewers seem to have found, by subsequent experience, that it was rather too potent; for, in attempting to elude the force of my charge against them, they have omitted the prescription of *swallowing table spoonfuls*, and substituted that of *a little brandy only, to wash the mouth, and gargle the throat*; but not a word of *swallowing it*, which must be very tantalizing indeed to the good women, who had been previously instructed not only to *wash*, but to *swallow*. Farther to gloss over the prevarication, they introduce a tale about *ignorance* and *inattention*; and quote Linnæus and Borgius to prove that brandy will tickle the *throat* as well as the *mouth*; a matter which was never discussed by me. But, whether from *ignorance*, *inattention*, or *shame*, the very subject about which I contended is now totally omitted; and the farce is concluded with “*we think that true humanity would not have blamed us.*” Who are *we*? I never censured them on the score of *humanity*; but, now they covet a contest, I shall submit to gratify them in a subsequent section.

To revert to the immediate object of discussion, it appears that, by some cause or other, they

they are not always equally clear-sighted. I have therefore placed their own assertions in such an appropriate point of view that they may be better enabled to read them, and explain their different import.

CRITICAL REVIEW,

Vol. XXXII. p. 443.

First Assertion.

CRITICAL REVIEW.

Vol. XXXVI. p. 92.

Explanation.

“ THE Nurses and attendants should occasionally go into the open air, and expose themselves, if possible, to a breeze; a little *red wine*, or a decoction of the Peruvian bark, may be also drank, in the worst situations; and, should any bad taste be perceived in the mouth and throat, it should be immediately gargled, and washed with Brandy. After which, about a *table spoonful* should be swallowed.”

“ AMONG the preservatives against infection we had mentioned *a little Brandy*, to wash the mouth and gargle the throat, when any bad taste was perceptible in either or both. It has unfortunately happened, either from ignorance or inattention, that this direction has been considered as superfluous, because every bad taste must be perceived in the mouth or throat. We say “from ignorance,” because Linnæus, Borelius, and others who speak of the organs of taste, mention both, with the instances of such

" substances as affect one,
 " and those which are per-
 " ceived chiefly in the
 " other; or "from inat-
 " tention," because it is well
 " known, that effluvia will
 " be perceived in either:
 " slight ones in the mouth,
 " and more dangerous ones
 " in the throat. We think
 " that true humanity would
 " not have blamed us."

In this curious elucidation, the *swallowing* of red wine, bark, and *brandy*, are carefully kept out of sight, for reasons too obvious to be hidden by this flimsy parade of words.

To return, however, to their own favourite, the *brandy-bottle*, I am enabled to explain a very abstruse subject introduced into their Review, where they intimate (Critical Review, vol. XXXVI. p. 91): "We did not augur much of the merit of the *Silhouettes*, when we saw the Editor's shade in the title-page. Concealing the name, we showed it to some *good judges*: they decided it to be the representative of a young undergraduate, pert, conceited, and shallow." On the accuracy of this decision the publick will decide: of the *personal politeness* of the Reviewers no one can doubt. That *they* thought they perceived such

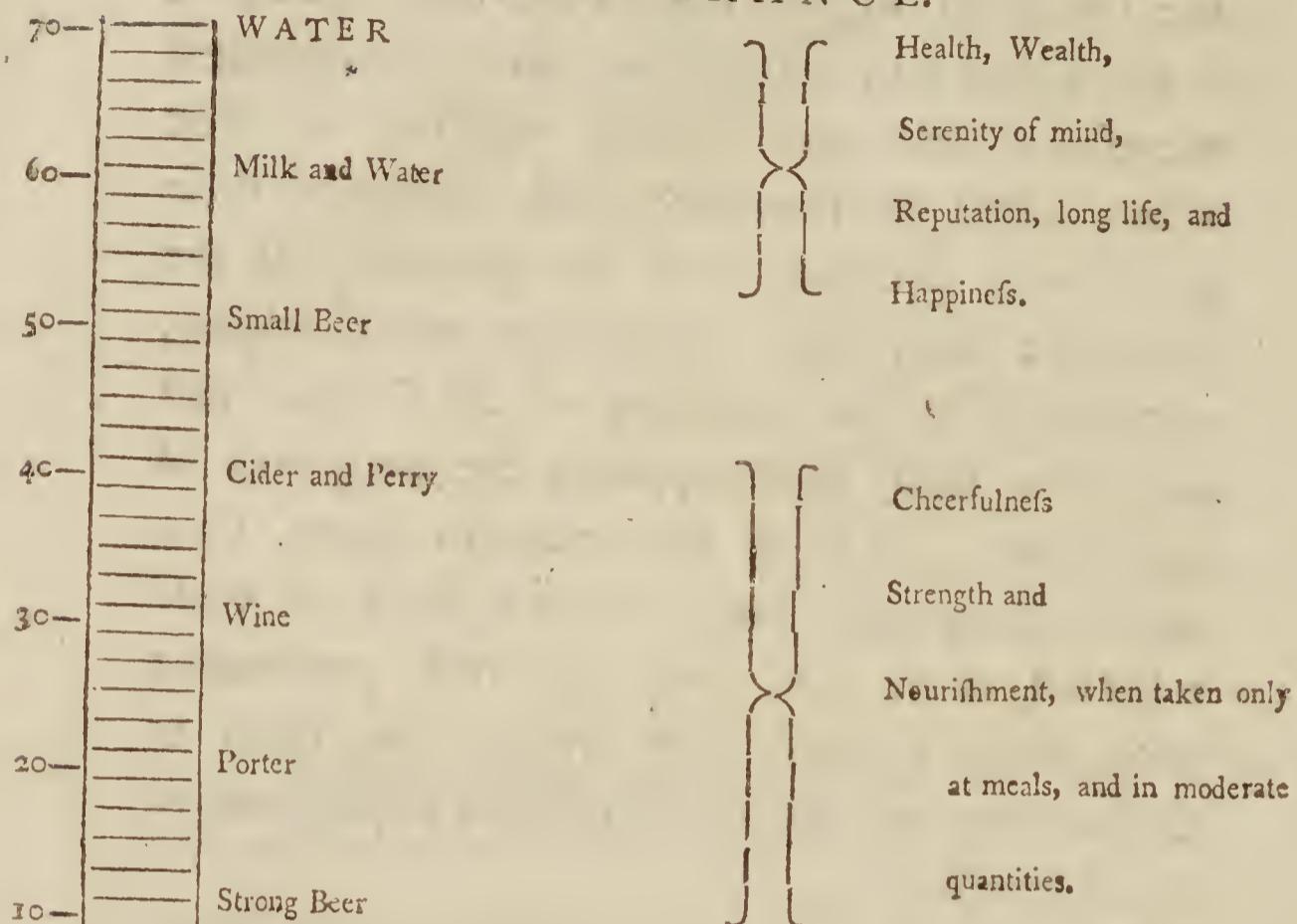
such a character I can easily conceive; for it is not unnatural to conclude, that, after indulging in the quantity of brandy they have acknowledged themselves and their friends addicted to, their vision might be perverted, and, instead of their *good judges* deciding from the periphery of the Silhouette, they might undergo an optical *delusion*, occasioned by the sparkling of the Coniac, and might be really contemplating the periphery of each other. As these are unknown to me, I am not a competent judge of the truth of these reflected rays; but, from the rude personality with which I have been treated, the spirit of Coniac does not seem to have been a lying one on this supposition.

To assist the Reviewers, however, in the discrimination of the effects of various liquors, I have annexed a Barometer, which I originally received from my friend Dr. Rush of Philadelphia; and, with some alterations, formerly published in a tract, entitled, “*Hints on the Effects of a Little Drop.*” I had not, at that time, seen their recommendation of *table spoonfuls*; otherwise the title might have been improved.

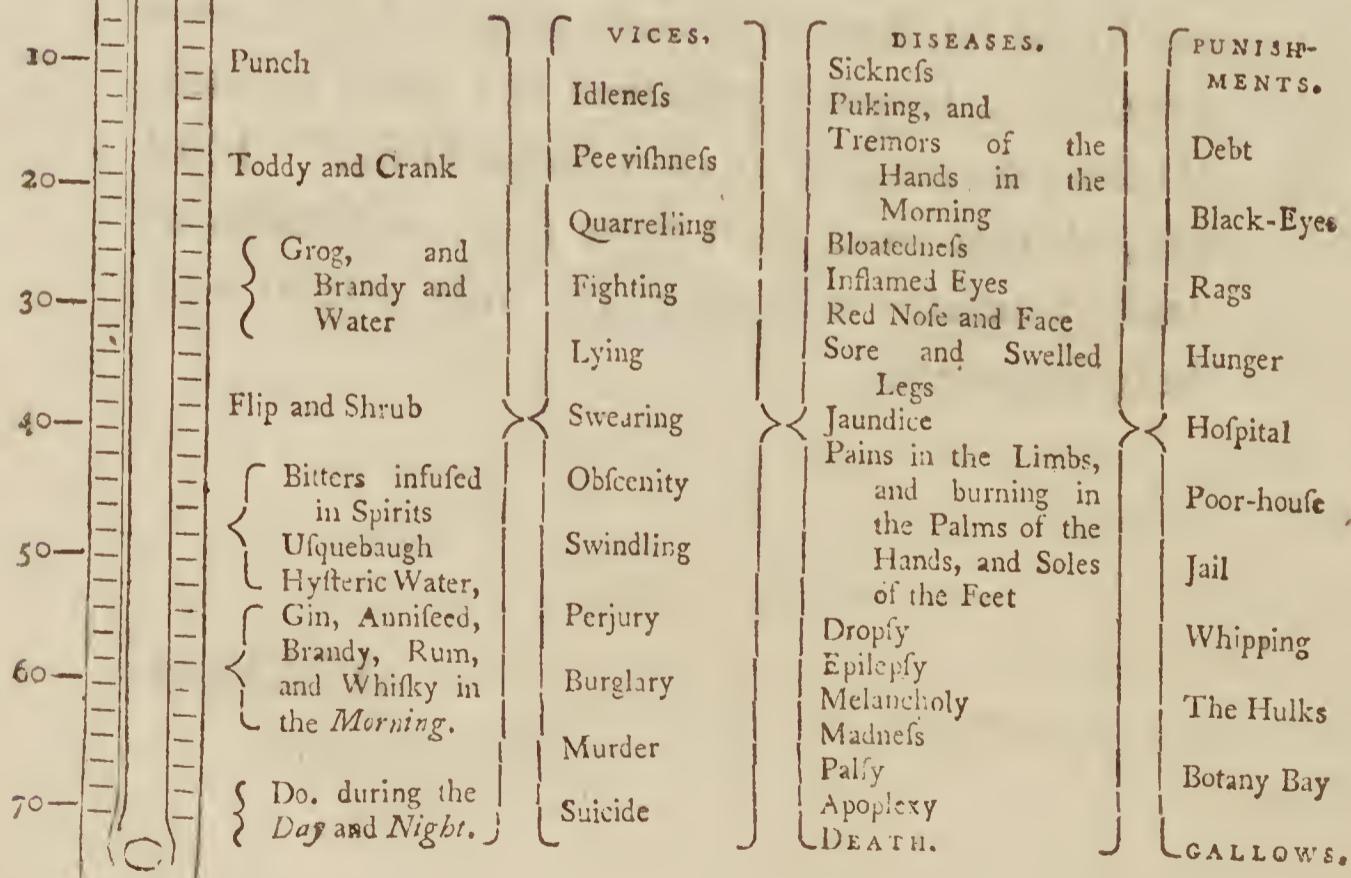
A MORAL.

A MORAL AND PHYSICAL THERMOMETER:
Or, A Scale of the Progress of TEMPERANCE and INTEMPERANCE.
LIQUORS, with their EFFECTS, in their usual Order.

TEMPERANCE.



INTEMPERANCE.



SECTION II.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THE Reviewers introduce their Philippic against the Institutions described in my "Hints designed " to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and " Medical Science," in the words following: " Humanity, as now managed, is an exhaustless " store. We mean not to intimate the slightest " disapprobation of these Institutions, or of Hu- " manity in general: but, when we see pomp and " egotism assuming its garb; when vanity and " ostentation occasionally peep from beneath the " robe; we feel no little disgust, from comparing " the fascinating exterior with the unpleasing " contents. This disgust is heightened into hor- " ror, when we reflect on the fatal consequences,

" of

“ of some eager, but mistaken, zealots in the
 “ cause of benevolence; they trembled at the
 “ fatal effects of despotism; and were convulsed
 “ with the apprehension of *lettres de cachets*; they
 “ have been rewarded by deportation to Cayenne
 “ and by the Guillotine; the cries of the unhappy
 “ Negroes haunted their repose; and they un-
 “ bound their hands, which were in a moment
 “ raised against their former masters, and have
 “ deluged vast regions with blood.

“ We know the delicate foundation on which
 “ we stand, and the advantages that may be
 “ taken of the opinions thus offered. *We are pre-*
 “ *pared to repel them*, and to oppose chilling facts
 “ against mistaken zeal.”

Critical Review, Vol. XXXVI. p. 91.

The censure of, or charges exhibited against, the Charities established in London, being general, it is difficult to know how to repel the general insinuations: for no arguments are offered; except indeed that the French made use of the guillotine; and that the oppressed Africans in St. Domingo endeavoured to emancipate themselves from slavery. These however can scarcely be considered as arguments against British beneficence; they are arguments that have frequently been urged by writers against Freedom and Religion. If the abuse of an object afforded a sufficient plea
 against

against its utility, not only Freedom, but Religion must be discarded the world. Indeed, the induction against Institutions in London, in consequence of the guillotine in France, and of slavery in the Indies, appears so foreign and inapplicable, that, as the Reviewers have stated it, it rather perplexes than convinces. Perhaps, by placing the arguments in the form of syllogism, they may appear more lucid, thus:

“ The French professed to promote the natural rights of humanity, and of liberty or freedom; but the French cruelly guillotined the people, and enslaved the Negroes in the Indies: Therefore, to promote the natural rights of humanity and of liberty, is impolitic and wicked.” Thus further elucidated by the same mode of argumentation:

“ The professors of the Christian Religion taught universal benevolence, or charity; but professors of Christianity have persecuted and cruelly put to death more people in Europe, than now dwell upon it: Therefore, to teach Christianity, and universal benevolence, is impolitic and wicked.”

My “ Hints on Beneficence, Temperance, and “ Medical Science,” embraced the histories of most of the principal Charities established in the Metropolis; and, in commenting on my publication, we find an invective against Benevolence
is

is introduced. Hence it is to be presumed, that their censure extended to all of them; on which account I shall enumerate them here, that the reader may possess the whole matter before him.

“ Contents of Vol. I.

“ Sect. I. Hints respecting the immediate effects of Poverty.

“ Sect. II. Hints respecting the Distresses of the Poor in 1794, 1795; and continued to the present Time.

“ Sect. III. Hints respecting the Society for bettering the Condition, and increasing the Comforts of the Poor.

“ Sect. IV. Hints respecting the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons imprisoned for small Debts.

“ Sect. V. Hints respecting Female Character, and a Repository for Female Industry.

“ Sect. VI. Hints respecting the Prevention and Cure of Infectious Fevers, and the Establishment of Houses of Recovery.

“ Contents of Vol. II.

“ Sect. I. Hints respecting a Samaritan Society.

“ Sect. II. Hints respecting Crimes and Punishments.

“ Sect. III. Hints respecting Wills and Testaments.

“ Sect.

- “ Sect. IV. Hints respecting a Female Benefit Club and Lying-in Charity.
- “ Sect. V. Hints respecting a Village Society.
- “ Sect. VI. Hints respecting the Support and Education of the Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor.
- “ Sect. VII. Hints respecting the Employment of the Blind.
- “ Sect. VIII. Hints respecting the Monument erected to John Howard, in St. Paul’s Cathedral.
- “ Sect. IX. Hints for establishing a Society for promoting useful Literature.
- “ Sect. X. Hints to Masters and Mistresses respecting Female Servants.
- “ Sect. XI. Hints respecting Religious Persecution.
- “ Sect. XII. Hints respecting Humane Societies for the Recovery of Drowned Persons.

“ Contents of Vol. III.

- “ Sect. I. Hints respecting the Cow-Pock.
- “ Sect. II. Hints addressed to Card-Parties.
- “ Sect. III. Hints respecting the Establishment of Schools for extending Education to the Poor.
- “ Sect. IV. Hints respecting the Philanthropic Society.
- “ Sect. V. Hints designed to promote the Establishment of Dispensaries for extending Medical

“ dical Relief to the Poor at their own Habita-
“ tions.

“ Sect. VI. Hints respecting the Bite of a
“ Mad-Dog, or rabid Animal.

“ Sect. VII. Hints for establishing a Sea-
“ bathing Infirmary at Margate, for the Poor of
“ London.

“ Sect. VIII. Hints for the Establishment of a
“ Medical Society in London.

“ Sect. IX. Hints respecting a Substitute for
“ Wheaten Bread.”

These volumes are illustrated by upwards of
thirty engravings.

From the accounts of Manchester, Liverpool, and Chester, agreeably to the writings of Percival, Haygarth, Currie, and others, the distresses of the poor were sufficient to excite the pity of the most obdurate heart, and to render the benevolent inhabitants, who were above want, open to the voice of humanity. The histories presented to us of the poor of Dublin, exhibit the sufferings in a still more deplorable state. The writings of Barrington, Percival, Ferrier, Clarke, Stanger, Barnard, Colquhoun, Neild, Hawes, Willan, and other Philanthropists, criminal as this epithet may appear to Reviewers, prove to every feeling heart, that, without the exercise of beneficence,

in the formation of charitable institutions, the poor of London must have died of want or disease, and often under their miserable complication.

That *humane* exertions tend to improve the heart, and promote reciprocal amities between the giver and receiver, I do not doubt; and whatever may be said of zealots in the cause of *Benevolence*, I sincerely hope these zealots may increase, and extend the national beneficence of this country; the exercise of which has tended to decrease the deaths in this Metropolis, at the same time that the population has been increasing, as incontrovertibly appears by the Bills of Mortality annexed. In the last fifteen years, which include the period in which these Institutions have flourished, compared with the preceding fifteen years, the increase of births is 19,504; and the decrease of deaths * 13,574; which together make the additional population in the metropolis in the last fifteen years 34,078, which is upwards of 2000 lives annually.

* Some little allowance may here be made of those burials in the yards of chapels or meetings, where registers may not have been kept.

Years.	Christened.	Buried.	Years.	Christened.	Buried.
1772	17916	26053	1787	17508	19349
1773	16805	21656	1788	19359	19697
1774	16998	20884	1789	18163	20749
1775	17629	20514	1790	18980	18038
1776	17280	19048	1791	18496	18760
1777	18300	23334	1792	19348	20213
1778	17300	20399	1793	19108	21749
1779	16769	20420	1794	18689	19241
1780	15634	20517	1795	18361	21179
1781	17026	20729	1796	18826	19288
1782	17101	17918	1797	18645	17014
1783	17091	19029	1798	17927	18155.
1784	17179	17828	1799	18970	18134
1785	17919	18919	1800	19176	23068
1786	18119	20454	1801	17814	19374
Total	260066	307682	Total	279570	294008

That other causes have contributed to this happy revolution, besides charitable Institutions, I doubt not; particularly the opening and widening of courts, alleys, and streets. To the aid of the Hospitals, a new species of medical relief has resulted from the establishment of Dispensaries, of which there are fifteen in London and Westminster. These not only afford medical aid to about 50,000 persons annually; but, in consequence of judicious advice at the habitations of the poor, cleanliness, ventilation, and other salutary objects, are promoted. The Hospitals, perhaps, embrace about 50,000 additional objects, amounting together to 100,000 annually, or about one

one-third of the whole poor in London. Institutions, still more recent, called, "Houses of 'Recovery,'" for the reception of poor persons labouring under infectious diseases, are now forming; which will doubtless extend their salutary influence; for in the Metropolis about 2500 persons are yearly cut off by fevers alone.

If it be a crime to promote such charitable institutions, I must certainly plead guilty; but, when I am told that I was actuated by an ostentatious motive, I can conscientiously contradict the base assertion. If ever I appeared active in their establishment, it was with a view to encourage others to partake in the labour. I can add, however, that where these institutions acquired a promising degree of stability, I have long avoided to appear in the same public or prominent character.

The Reviewers conclude their philippic against charitable institutions in these words: "We know "the whole tribe of Philanthropists; and, can de- "velope the motives of many of their leaders."

Critical Review, vol. XXXVI. p. 92.

London, unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, cannot contain less than 30,000 Philanthropists; and, from the rational enjoyments derived from those I can claim as my friends, theirs, from knowing the whole tribe, must be infinite, and highly gratifying; for every citizen who delights in the

prosperity of his country, must contemplate with gratitude the tribe of Philanthropists, whose endeavours have so successfully preserved the lives of their fellow-creatures, and added to the population of the metropolis alone upwards of 34,000 in the short space of fifteen years. Under this honourable sentiment, I relinquish to the Critical Reviewers the task of *developing their motives, and of exhibiting fatal consequences and chilling facts*, which they have in some measure pledged themselves to do, whilst I humbly commemorate the happy result of their actions.

* * * In the preceding pages, wherever Vaccine Inoculation, or Inoculation of the Cow-pock, are introduced, the practice of conveying the Cow-pock from one human subject to another is implied.

CONCLUSION.

IT happens, from the imbecillity of human powers, that one individual will imagine, and point out in another, those very defects which are most conspicuous in himself; and hence it may appear, from the preceding pages, that the observation made by the authors of the Critical Review, “that greater efforts are often necessary “to preserve than to gain a character,” (vol. XXXVI. p. 103,) is not unworthy of their own contemplation.

Personal character, however, is not a fit subject for wanton insult, or ridicule; whilst the contumelious reference to Ixion’s wheel is again more applicable to themselves, than to an individual author, for the periphery of this wheel, is described as having been studded with serpents, which certainly render it more peculiarly characteristic of Reviewers.

With

With respect to the motive of submitting my present Apology to public notice, it is that of vindicating my own character, and of the friends immediately connected with this defence, against aspersions which appeared to me equally unmerited and illiberal; and this I have endeavoured to do in a candid and dispassionate manner, without insinuating any reflections against my assailants, but such as might necessarily result from arguments brought forward in self-defence. If I should have adopted their example, and admitted, even against themselves, unbecoming reflections on private or public character, I would not hesitate to offer another apology for inadvertencies which might have escaped in a hasty composition; for, however severely I may have been treated, I harbour no animosity; but gratefully cherish the recollection of the various and invaluable instruction I have reaped from their pages, not one of which has escaped my perusal. So far, indeed, am I from entertaining the most distant wish to lessen their reputation, or the extensive circulation of their Miscellanies, that I should rejoice to find them universally disseminated; not on account of pecuniary emolument, but of the wide interests of the community; for they cannot be studied without moral information, nor followed without refinement of judgment and taste. This has been my language in pri-

private societies; and a little personal insult shall not pique me so far as to render me unmindful of the public benefits and literary obligations which their labours have conferred.

I have long considered literary characters as great public benefactors; for, without books, what a dark chasm would existence present! The pursuits in Literature are various, as is the mind of man; and each department in science may be cultivated with pleasure and profit, suited to different dispositions and temperaments. Some writers may excel in profound investigations, whilst others may usefully pursue a more humble course. In my “Hints designed to promote “Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science,” I adopted the latter; which I professedly declared in the Preface, in these words: “The humble “course I have chosen is, to exhibit examples of “beneficence, rather than of science — those “great and good characters who have been the “benefactors of mankind.” (p. vii.)

If in this pursuit I had written one sentence that could have diminished the sensibility of the human heart, contracted the hand of Charity, perverted one moral or religious sentiment, or lessened private or public happiness, I should have silently bowed to merited censure.

